

REMARKS

Claims 1-46 are pending, with claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 13, and 15 being independent. New claims 35-46 are added by this amendment. No new matter is added.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 15, 16, 25, 27, and 29.

Claims 1-14, 17, 19-21, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Matsusaka (U.S. Patent No. 6,498,575). Applicant has amended the independent claims to obviate the rejection.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a semiconductor device that includes, among other features, a switching circuit having m -pieces of current sources where the switching circuit selects the output terminals to be connected to the input terminal by using signals which are input to the input terminals of the switching circuit and a signal which is output from the output terminal is input to the current source. Support for this amendment is found at least, for example, by the input terminals (e.g., 501-506 in FIG. 5) of the switching circuit (101), output terminals of the switching circuit (101) and current sources (e.g., 511-517) connected to the output terminals. The switching circuit controls a signal and the signal which is output from the output terminal of the switching circuit is input to the current source. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest a semiconductor device where the switching circuit selects the output terminals to be connected to the input terminal by using signals which are input to the input terminals of the switching circuit and a signal which is output from the output terminal is input to the current source.

Instead, Matsusaka discloses a current source (503 in FIG.1), input terminals (71 and 72 in FIG. 2) of the switching circuit and output terminals (75 and 76) of the switching circuit. However, no signal is input to the current source and the switching circuit does not control a current from the current source. Thus, Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest a signal which is output from the output terminal O_k is input to the current source I_k .

For at least these reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claim 2.

As amended, independent claim 5 recites a semiconductor device that includes, among other features, a switching circuit having m-pieces of current sources, where the switching circuit controls ON/OFF of a switch by using a signal which is input from at least one of the n-pieces of input terminals and a signal which is output from one of the m-pieces of output terminals is input to the current source connected to the output terminal. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection because Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest a semiconductor device that includes the switching circuit controls ON/OFF of a switch by using a signal which is input from at least one of the n-pieces of input terminals and a signal which is output from one of the m-pieces of output terminals is input to the current source connected to the output terminal.

Instead, Matsusaka discloses a current source (503 in FIG.1), input terminals (71 and 72 in FIG. 2) of the switching circuit and output terminals (75 and 76) of the switching circuit. However, no signal is input to the current source and the switching circuit does not control a current from the current source. Thus, Matsusaka fails to describe or suggest a signal which is output from one of the m-pieces of output terminals is input to the current source connected to the output terminal.

For at least these reasons, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 5 and its dependent claims 7 and 8.

Similarly to independent claim 5, each of independent claims 6, 11, and 13 recites an arrangement that includes a signal which is output from one of the m-pieces of output terminals is input to the current source connected to the output terminal. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 6, 11, and 13 and their respective dependent claims 12, 14, 19-21, and 24, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claim 5.

Claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, and 28, which depend from their respective independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsusaka in view of Gu (U.S. 6,525,683). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection at least because Gu does not remedy the failure

Applicant : Hajime Kimura
Serial No. : 10/727,057
Filed : December 4, 2003
Page : 13 of 13

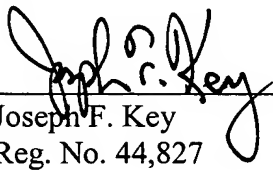
Attorney's Docket No.: 12732-186001 / US6794

of Matsusaka to describe or suggest the features recited in independent claims 1, 5, 6, 11, and 13 from which claims 3, 4, 9, 10, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, and 28 respectively depend.

Enclosed is a \$1510 check of which \$790 is for the filing of an RCE, \$600 is for excess claim fees, and \$120 is for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/25/2005



Joseph F. Key
Reg. No. 44,827

Fish & Richardson P.C.
1425 K Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, DC 20005-3500
Telephone: (202) 783-5070
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331